

JOHN COYLE.

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JUNE 3, 1898.—Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. HURLEY, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

ADVERSE REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 1365.]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, in considering the bill (H. R. 1365) authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to procure and present a suitable medal to John Coyle, obtained from the Navy Department the record of the said Coyle, which shows that James Smith, the assumed name under which John Coyle rendered service, enlisted in the Navy, by transfer from the Army, May 25, 1864, as an ordinary seaman, for two years two months and nine days; served on board the U. S. ships *Hetzel*, *Louisiana*, *Tacony*, and *Ohio*, and deserted from the last-named vessel July 29, 1865. Subsequently the charge of desertion was removed under the act of Congress approved August 14, 1888. Coyle's claim to recognition is based solely on his statement that he was one of a volunteer crew in the cutter of the *Tacony*, on the 25th day of December, 1864, sent to sound the Cape Fear River; that the cutter was fired upon, resulting in its loss, and that he, with the other members of the crew, was rescued by the *Sassacus*.

The Department sees no reason for further special legislation in behalf of Coyle, in which conclusion the committee concur. They therefore recommend that the bill do not pass.